

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 26, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-29 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-29 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference sign(s) mentioned in the description and/or include reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description. Figures 2, 4, 5, and 6 have been amended as required by the Examiner. In Figure 2, previously omitted reference numbers for elements 218 and 224 have been added, and the reference to mainframe transfer station 216 has been deleted from the specification. In Figure 4, previously omitted reference number 421 has been added. In Figure 6, omitted reference numbers for elements 510 and 511 have been added. Also in Figure 4, extraneous reference numbers 450, 452, 454, 456, 457, 458, 462, 464, 466, 467, and 468 have been deleted. Also in Figure 5, extraneous reference numbers for elements 503 and 504 have been deleted. Also in Figure 6, extraneous reference numbers 502, 503, 504, and 509 have been deleted.

Additionally, amendments to Figure 3, and further amendments to Figures 2, 5, and 6 have been made to more clearly depict the figures as described in the specification. In Figure 3, reference numbers 100, 110, 111, 112, 114, 118, 120, 122, 124, 128, 130, and 140 have been amended to 200, 210, 211, 212, 214, 218, 220, 222, 224, 228, 230, and 240, respectively. In addition, reference numbers 132, 134, and 138 have been deleted. In Figure 2, an arrow pointing to element 211 has been added. In Figure 5, an erroneous designation of element 505 has been deleted. In Figure 6, the reference number for previously ambiguously labeled element 508 has been relocated to more clearly point out that element.

A Figure 8, which was described in the original specification but was not submitted with the original drawings, is not being submitted.

The disclosure was objected to based on various informalities, which are addressed below:

1. The "Brief Descriptions" of Figures 6, 7, and 8 were not provided in the specification. The specification has been amended (new paragraphs [0020.1] and [0020.2]) to include brief descriptions to identify Figures 6 and 7. In addition, all references to Figure 8 have been deleted.

2. The patent application papers contained only Figures 1 to 7, but not a Figure 8 which was described in the specification. No references to Figure 8 appear in the specification as amended.

3. The reference numerals presented in Figure 3 were not defined in the specification, and the relationship between the information in Figure 3 and the information in Figure 2 was not clear. The reference numbers in Figure 3 have been amended to be consistent with Figure 2 and the text references in the specification as amended. Figure 3 as presently presented complementarily depicts the apparatus shown in Figure 2, as is described in the specification.

4. The numerical information for calculating the volumetric depletion using a current density of 14 A/cm^2 did not agree with the "Test Run" data and calculations as presented in Figure 7. The numerical information for calculating volumetric depletion has been amended to be consistent with Figure 7.

In addition, Applicants have amended paragraphs [0005], [0007], [0021], [0022], [0025], [0028], [0029], [0030], [0031], [0033], [0034], [0035], and [0036] of the specification to correct minor editorial errors. Applicants believe that the specification and drawings as amended contain no new matter.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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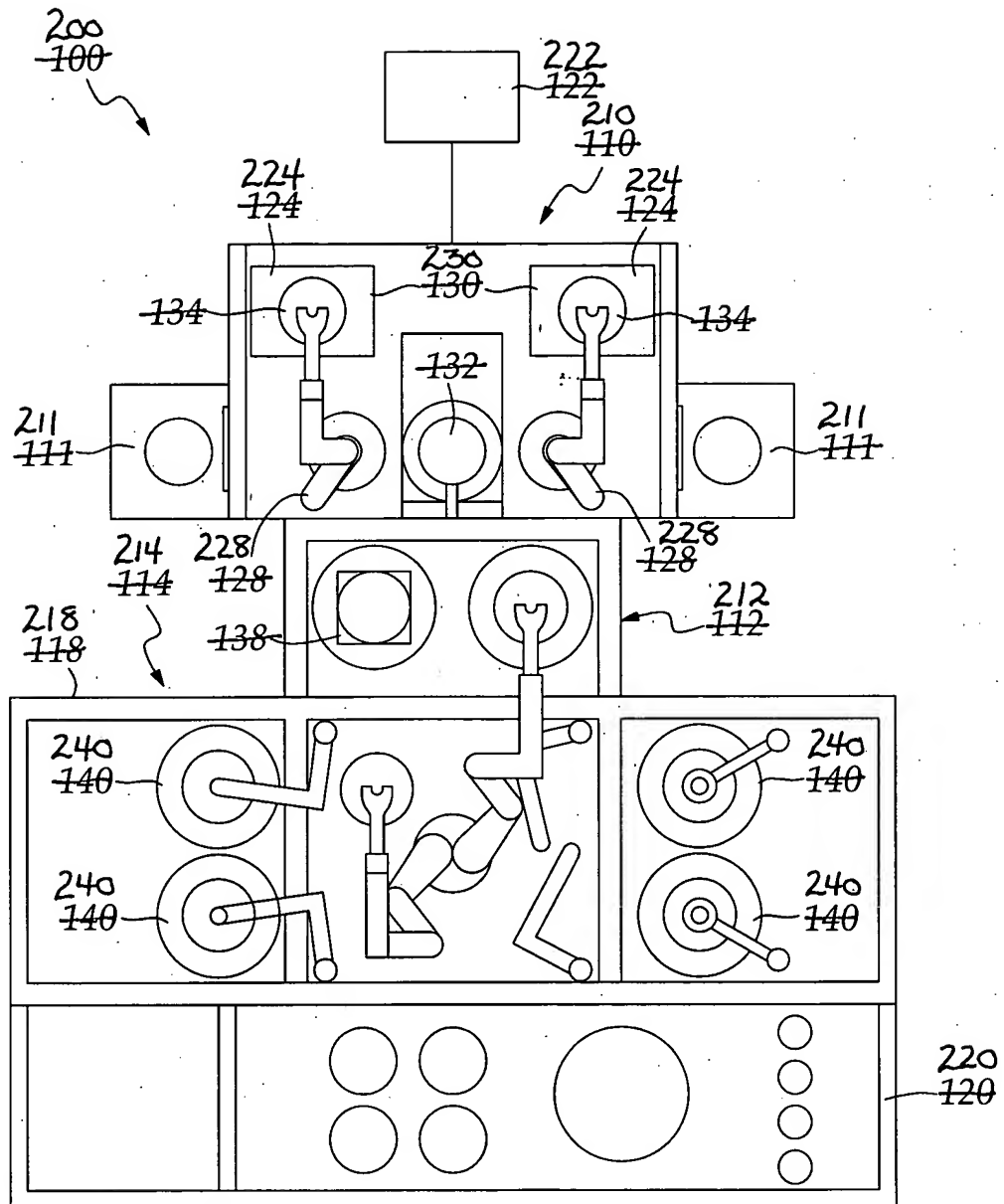


FIG. 3

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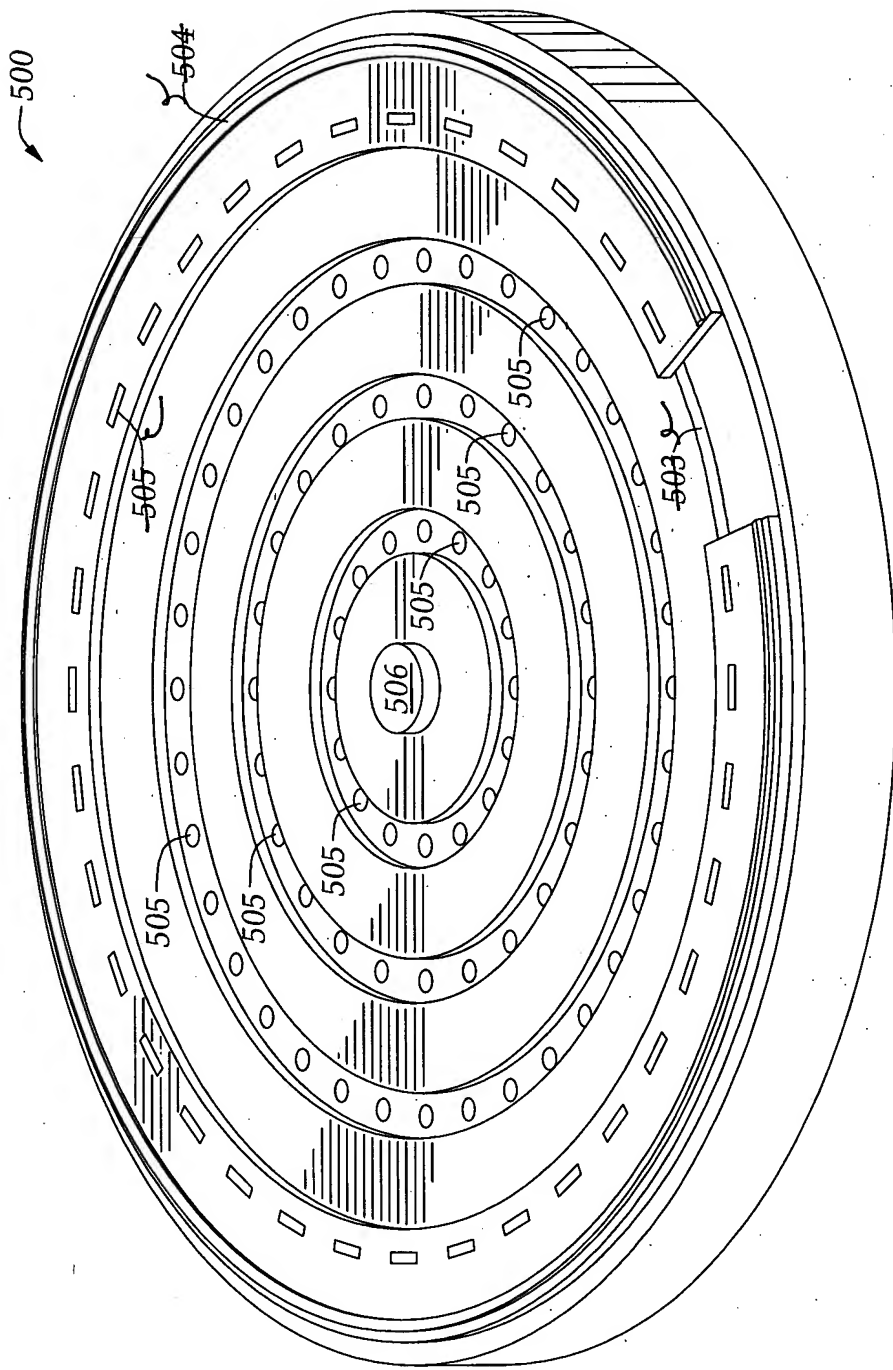


FIG. 5

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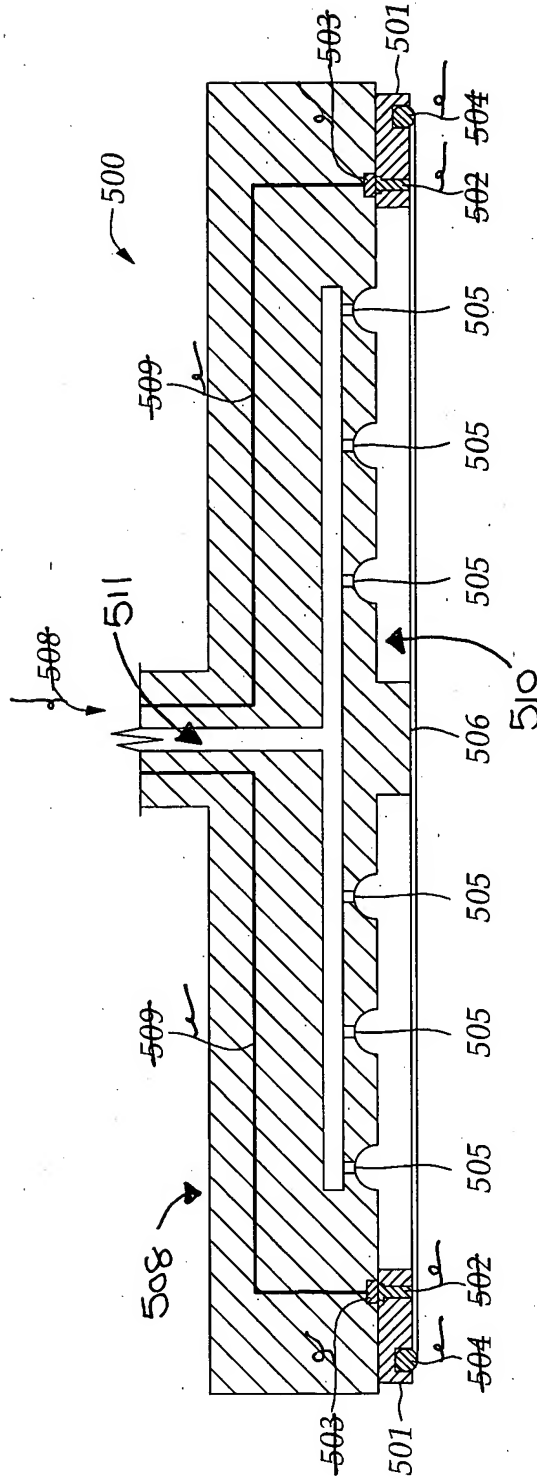


FIG. 6